

If they [the mullahs] continue to pursue their current path and course of action, namely belligerence, missile launches, terrorism, intimidation and closing ranks, they will inevitably crash head first.

If they make the slightest retreat, namely, if they change their behavior and abandon their suppression, terrorism and belligerence, then they would undermine the very existence of rule of the velayat-e faqih (absolute clerical rule).

For this reason, Khamenei calls for the creation of “a young and Hezbollahi government” and sees a monolithic Parliament and a murderous Judiciary as the only way out of the vortex of crises and the only way to preserve the regime.

The international community’s decision to activate the snapback mechanism would be the coup de grace shot to the regime’s windfall achievements under the JCPOA and the policy of appeasement.

To date, the accelerating outbreak of the coronavirus has taken the lives of at least 72,000 people in Iran.

In March, Khamenei admitted that he sought to create an opportunity and a blessing out of the coronavirus crisis.

The abnormal surging trend of the number of corona virus victims in Iran is a product of the criminal policies of Khamenei and Rouhani. The strategy of launching mass casualties as a barrier against the threat of an uprising and eventual overthrow is exactly designed to pacify and demoralize the Iranian society, rendering it hopeless and paralyzed.

During the breathtaking coronavirus crisis, the mullahs continued to launch expensive satellites into space. Concurrently, they pursued their belligerent and terrorist activities in Iraq and Syria and escalated their ominous nuclear activities to a new level.

The ruling mullahs must answer why the value of the country’s official currency has plunged so much? Why is there no ability to create jobs? Why is Iran one of the four countries in the world with the highest inflation rates?

And you must say where did Khamenei amass 100 billion dollars in his executive headquarters?

The 15 institutions and foundations under Khamenei’s control have a total of one trillion dollars’ worth of assets.

We pledged to overthrow the regime, take back Iran and restore all the violated and plundered rights of the people of Iran.

Our people must enjoy the right to be healthy, have shelter, to employment, to organize and have syndicates, autonomy for ethnic minorities, equal participation in running society’s affairs, gender equality and popular sovereignty.

They must be free of religious slavery and sexual exploitation. They must enjoy freedom of expression, opinion, and choice. They must be pulled out of poverty and be free from fear; this means ending torture, executions, and social and economic insecurity.

We have pledged to restore all these freedoms and rights. We make this pledge before the Iranian people and history. This is our pledge to 120,000 martyrs who fell for freedom.

Today, in Iran, one of the greatest battles and one of the greatest tests of our time rages on between freedom and religious fascism, between democracy and religious fundamentalism.

We urge all governments and international bodies to stand with the people of Iran in this historic showdown against the greatest threat to world peace and security.

The Iranian regime’s leaders planned to launch a major terrorist attack against the Free Iran Grand Gathering in Paris, in 2018. The terrorists in possession of the bomb were

arrested by the Belgian Police. The regime’s diplomat, who delivered the bomb, has been in jail for more than two years.

For the first time, a serving diplomat faces trial in Europe for direct involvement in terrorism. This is a great disgrace for the regime, and it shows that the regime spares no effort to commit any crime and pay any price to destroy its alternative.

The trial of the four detained terrorists as the perpetrators of this terrorist act is a necessary step. But the real decision makers were Khamenei, Rouhani, Zarif, and Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi.

As I have reiterated time and again, we have not come to gain something for ourselves; we have come to sacrifice and pay the requisite price.

We are determined to restore freedom and people’s sovereignty in Iran, and this will happen.

Long live freedom. God bless the people of Iran.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL GLENN STARNES

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. FLORES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Colonel Glenn Starnes, who passed away on 30 March 2020.

Glenn was born 27 January 1959 as the second son of Charles and La Verne Starnes. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1981 and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

Colonel Starnes led a life of service to both his country as a decorated marine and to the Texas A&M community as a member of the Office of the Commandant’s staff.

Glenn served in the Marines for 30 years and commanded at every level, from field artillery battery to field artillery regiment. While serving his country, he was stationed in seven States and two countries. He fought in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom through two tours of duty in 2003 and 2005. Glenn also served on joint duty with the U.S. Central Command and later served as an exchange officer with the United Kingdom’s Joint Headquarters.

Colonel Starnes was awarded the Legion of Merit with two Gold Stars, the Bronze Star with Combat “V” Device, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, and the title of Officer of the Order of the British Empire from the Queen of England.

After 30 years of service Glenn retired from the Marine Corps in 2011.

In 2012, Colonel Starnes joined the Texas A&M University community as Assistant Commandant for Operations and Training for A&M’s internationally recognized Corps of Cadets.

In his 8 years on this job, Glenn was a tireless worker who loved the Corps and the opportunity to serve as mentor for many of its members.

He was highly respected by his colleagues, and many Aggies feel fortunate enough to call him friend. Colonel Starnes’ 30 years of dedicated service embody the core values of Texas Aggies: respect, excellence, leadership, loyalty, integrity, and selfless service. His loss will be deeply felt by the Texas A&M community and the Corps of Cadets.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Starnes served his country proudly for many years, and his legacy will be forever woven into our American history. He was not only a dedicated public servant, he was a loving son, a husband, a father, an effective mentor, and a loyal friend to hundreds.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest and heartfelt condolences to the Starnes family.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation’s Capitol to honor the life, legacy, and service of Colonel Glenn Starnes.

As I close today I urge all Americans to continue praying for our country, for our veterans, for our military men and women who keep us safe, and for our first responders who keep us safe at home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. LAHOOD. on Monday, July 27, 2020, I missed votes due to flight delays. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 167.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to attend votes. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Rollcall No. 144; NAY on Rollcall No. 145; NAY on Rollcall No. 146; NAY on Rollcall No. 147; NAY on Rollcall No. 148; NAY on Rollcall No. 149; NAY on Rollcall No. 150; NAY on Rollcall No. 153; NAY on Rollcall No. 154; YEA on Rollcall No. 155; YEA on Rollcall No. 156; YEA on Rollcall No. 162; NAY on Rollcall No. 163; YEA on Rollcall No. 164; NAY on Rollcall No. 168; NAY on Rollcall No. 169; YEA on Rollcall No. 170; NAY on Rollcall No. 171; and NAY on Rollcall No. 172.

FRANKLIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 2020

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bicentennial celebration of Franklin First United Methodist Church in Franklin, Kentucky. Shortly after the town was surveyed in 1820, the Union Church was established where Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists would all hold services. Franklin First would go on to have an incredible two-hundred-year history, producing numerous servant leaders and engaging in missionary work that would spread beyond the 1st District. Members of this church have proven to be steadfast leaders across the globe. In 1874, Mrs. Dorinda Duncan organized the first Children’s